

finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lambrecht in view of Hansen, and further in view of Simar, Jr. *et al* (U.S. 6,182,203 B1).

Remarks

As per claim 1, the examiner states that Lambrecht teaches the claimed limitation “wherein said DSP is enabled to operate in either command and control mode or continuous speech mode and said DSP serves as the preprocessor of all speech input prior to execution of instructions by the CPU to process the speech input” by citing column 8, lines 22-23 and lines 56-57 of Lambrecht. The applicant disagrees with this interpretation. First, lines 22-23 of column 8 merely state that “the multimedia devices 142-146 may be any of various types of input/output devices, including multimedia devices...” and lines 56-57 state “the multimedia device 142 also may include a digital signal processor (DSP) 210 or other...” which cannot be inferred to teach or motivate claim 1. Lambrecht is silent on the limitation above and cannot be used to reject this claim. As per MPEP 2143.03, all claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art in order to establish *prima facie* obviousness. Neither Lambrecht nor Hansen teach or suggest all claim limitations as required; therefore, this rejection is improper.

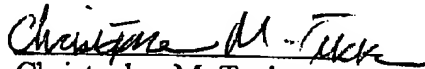
In fact, Lambrecht teaches away from the claimed invention. Specifically, Lambrecht teaches that when an application is executed on the CPU, multimedia data is generated and is transferred or written by the CPU to main memory (column 24, lines 12-16). Once real-time or multimedia data and commands have been placed in the multimedia memory by the CPU, one or more of the multimedia devices reads the commands and data from the multimedia memory and performs the necessary graphics and audio processing functions (column 25, lines 3-9). This is completely different from

the claimed invention. The DSP does not work as a slave to the CPU, but as an interface between the audio input and CPU where the DSP is enabled to execute processing functions independent from the CPU. Moreover, the addition of Hansen does not remedy the deficiencies found in Lambrecht.

Independent claim 27 suffers the same improper rejection. Neither Lambrecht nor Hansen discloses or motivates this claim. Specifically, Lambrecht discloses that the DSP only functions after it has received instructions from the CPU (column 24, lines 12-16; column 25, lines 3-9). This is different from the present invention where the DSP processes audio data independent of the CPU and then transmits the processed audio data to the appropriate component or device.

For at least these reasons, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw these grounds of rejection. The Applicant believes the present claims are in condition for allowance and reconsideration, and an early Notice of Allowability is sought.

Respectfully submitted,


Christopher M. Tucker
Reg. No. 48,783
Agent for Applicant
12701 Fair Lakes Circle
Suite 550
Fairfax, VA 22033
(703) 631-6925